

Message Text

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15
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 L-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/069 W

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R 170850Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3700
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SW
SUBJECT: SWEDEN IN THE UN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE CHIEF OF THE SWEDISH MISSION TO THE UN, AMBASSADOR OLOF RYDBECK, HAS RETURNED TO STOCKHOLM FOR CONSULTATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH SWEDEN'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS OF JANUARY 1. AT A PRESS BRIEFING JAN. 15, RYDBECK SAID SWEDEN WOULD "PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE" IN THE SC, ALTHOUGH NO MAJOR INITIATIVES ARE CONTEMPLATED BY THE GOS.

2. ACCORDING TO RYDBECK, SWEDEN HOPES TO USE ITS "SPECIAL SITUATION" TO ASSIST IN SOLVING SC PROBLEMS. AS HE NOTED, "IN SOME VOTES, IT MIGHT BE THAT OUR STAND WILL BE DECISIVE. THIS COULD BE THE CASE, FOR INSTANCE, IN QUESTIONS REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA." THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SWEDEN ALSO BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE SC SANCTIONS COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL DEAL WITH

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THE RHODESIAN ISSUE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. COMMENT: SWEDEN ASSUMES ITS SEAT ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT A TIME WHEN THE TRADITIONAL POPULARITY OF THE UN IN SWEDEN HAS BEEN DIMMED SOMEWHAT BY THE CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE LAST UNGA, INCLUDING THE DECISION TO LET PLO LEADER ARAFAT ADDRESS THE UNGA AND THE SUSPENSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THAT BODY (STOCKHOLM A-408). NEVERTHELESS, THE UN STILL RETAINS CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE HERE, AND THE ACCESSION OF SWEDEN TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS REGARDED WITH SATISFACTION BY THE PUBLIC. IF SWEDEN, AS EXPECTED, FOLLOWS ITS PAST FORM, IT WILL AVOID ASSUMING A HIGH PROFILE IN THE SC ON CONTENTIOUS QUESTIONS AND WILL INSTEAD PUSH FOR A "CONSENSUS" ON MOST ISSUES. WHEN THIS FAILS, A POLICY OF ABSTENTION MAY BE THE EXPECTED COURSE OF ACTION, EXCEPT ON ISSUES WHICH AFFECT PRINCIPLES IMPORTANT TO THE SWEDES SUCH AS UNIVERSALITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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